Scientific, etc., Department.—A provision of Rs. 1,28,000 is made for 1104 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 1,12,800. The variations having all been explained in the memorandum, I do not wish to detain the House on the subject for any length of time.

Up-lift of the Depressed Classes.—I now come to the major head of account newly opened to exhibit all the various items of expenditure incurred for the special benefit of the depressed classes. As already pointed out by me, expenditure was being incurred annually by the several departments for the Up-lift of the Depressed classes. Now that a Protector of the Depressed Classes has been appointed, it appeared to the Government desirable to bring all the items of expenditure incurred for their benefit under a common head for statistical considerations. The schools transferred to this head represent those in backward localities which would not have been opened but for the special Up-lift of the Depressed Classes. I have given sufficient explanation of the various items in the memorandum, and I do not desire to repeat them here.

Miscellaneous.—Passing on, I come to the last head of expenditure, viz., 'Miscellaneous.' The only item on which I feel it necessary to give a word of explanation is the lump provision of Rs. two lakhs for re-organisation of departments after consideration of the Report of the Special Finance Committee. Before I enter into the subject, I am afraid, I shall be failing in my duty, if I do not express on behalf of the Government their sincere acknowledgment of the monumental report with the powerful notes of dissent and supplement submitted by the Special Finance Committee, whose sittings continued for about a period of two years holding 54 meetings in all. They had to deal with numberless pages of notes and reports not only of their sub-committees but also of the several Heads of Departments, and, after digesting all, had to prepare the report which, as now before the House, I have no hesitation in calling 'a landmark in the financial history of Cochin'. The special thanks of the Government are due in no small measure to that veteran scholar and statesman who presided over the deliberations of the Committee and who, in the words of the members of the Committee themselves, 'besides placing his long and varied experience at our disposal, bore the brunt of the work of the Committee.'

The report of the Committee is engaging the earnest attention of the Government and they hope to pass orders as early as possible. Meanwhile it is their sincere desire that the Members of the House may avail themselves of the opportunity during

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